

# THE MOUNT

*Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles* ♣ *Winter/Spring 2009*

## True Calling

*Students Switch Careers,  
Find Fulfillment With  
Mount Nursing Program*

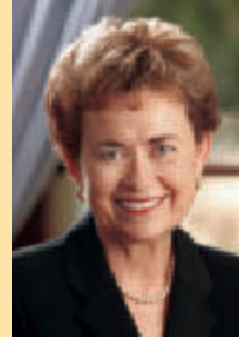


Carnegie Distinction ♣ Alumnae Awards ♣ The Higher Life

# *from the president*

Dear Reader,

As the current global economic crisis unfolds, organizations and individuals, including the Mount, are affected by the volatile environment. Our students are under increasing financial pressure as credit becomes harder to obtain and they or their parents potentially or actually face unemployment. Like most institutions of higher education in the United States, the College's endowment has been impacted by the financial crisis, and costs continue to rise for essentials such as utilities and insurance.



Yet, the College remains in a strong financial position thanks to our sound fiscal policies and wise stewardship of assets. To ensure our strength, we are curbing discretionary spending while continuing to invest in critically important activities, most notably retention and recruitment of new students. The College has also instituted a hiring freeze for staff positions through June 30, 2009.

The Mount has been very blessed by strong support from foundations, corporations, friends, and our alumnae. I feel grateful, that, despite the challenges we are facing together, we concluded our recent capital campaign early, above goal and with all capital projects completed and paid for, thereby positioning the College to weather this storm with state-of-the-art facilities and a renewed vigor and vitality.

Even though we face this economic environment in good shape, the future continues to pose challenges. We all know that Mount St. Mary's College stands for an education of the highest quality. We must fiercely protect the promise of providing a superior education to future generations and ensure that the vision of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, endures.

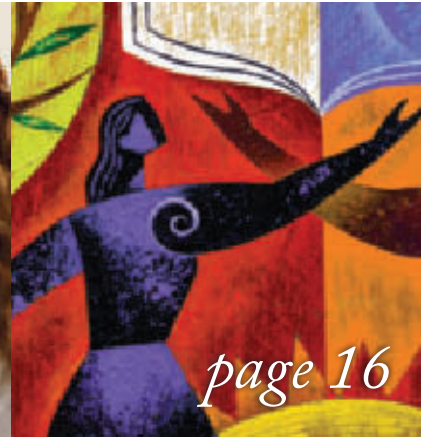
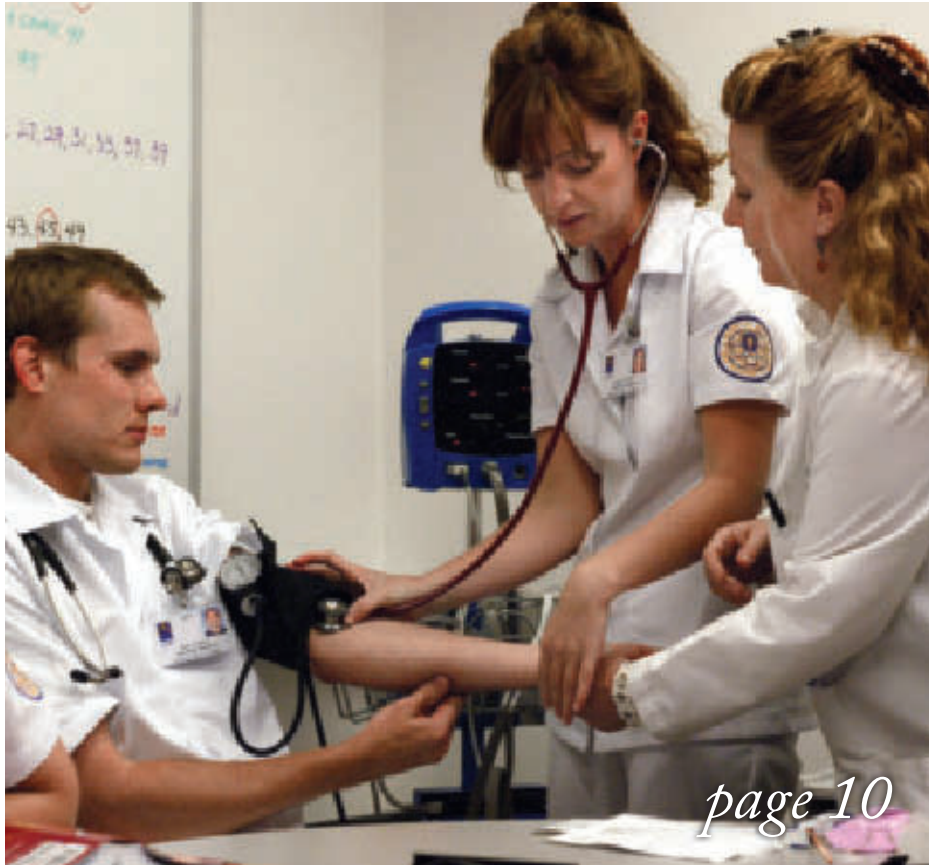
To that end, I ask each and every one of you to participate in the future of the Mount. It all begins with our students. All of us are ambassadors for the College, and all of us have a Mount story to share. Students come to us one by one, and each of you plays a part in finding potential students to tell about our great college. Additionally, your support is needed more than ever before. The strength of the Mount comes from the many people who have given — and continue to give — their treasure, their talent, and their time. In light of the economic conditions our nation faces, student support is our highest fundraising priority in 2009, and every gift is savored. Volunteer opportunities abound in many areas of the College. I encourage you to visit our Web site to see the many happenings for yourself, or contact our Alumnae Relations office to hear more.

Thank you in advance for helping spread good news as we move forward together in building an ever-stronger Mount St. Mary's College.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Powers Doud'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jacqueline Powers Doud  
President



## Finding Their True Calling

Intellect and passion come together for career changers in nursing program.

*page 10*

## The Higher Life

Liberal arts courses give students the tools to live ethical and moral lives.

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### ON THE COVER:

Stacy Gruenloh '07, now a nurse, shows a photo from her days as a Radio City Rockette.  
Photo by Carlos Puma

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Photo: Wtin Jalanugraha

Students lead the procession during the Mass of the Holy Spirit in Mary Chapel.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Mount St. Mary's College offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments, and the world.

## THE MOUNT

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## Sister Helen Prejean to Speak at Commencement 2009

The Mount will celebrate Commencement 2009 on May 11 with speaker Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, the Roman Catholic nun who gained acclaim for penning the Pulitzer Prize-nominated book-turned-movie "Dead Man Walking."

Prejean continues her global campaign to abolish the death penalty and is a chief supporter of the Catholic Church's vigorous opposition to state executions. She divides her time between campaigning against the death penalty and counseling individual death row prisoners.

"Sister Helen is a courageous and inspirational role model for our students," says Mount President Jacqueline Powers Doud. "Her rich storytelling illuminates the issues surrounding the death penalty in America."

Prejean has served on the board of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. She is a member of Amnesty International and honorary chair of the Moratorium Campaign, a group gathering signatures for a worldwide moratorium on the death



penalty.

In 1997, Prejean was awarded the Carondelet Medal, the Mount's highest honor. She also received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of Catholic Women in 1999, and the Vision 2000 Courage Award from Catholic Charities USA.

As the founder of Survive, a victim's advocacy group in New Orleans, she continues to counsel not only inmates on death row, but families of murder victims as well. Prejean is working on a new book, "River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey to Death Row."

## from the faculty

**Helen Boutrous**, associate professor and chair of the history and political science departments, co-authored "APSA Teaching and Learning Conference 2008: Teaching Across the Discipline" with Cynthia Unmack from American River College. The article was published in *Political Science & Politics* in July.

**Jane Crawford**, instructor of history, presented a paper on Jane Leade, the late 17th century Gnostic mystic, at the Western Conference on British Studies in September in San Antonio.

**Karol Dean**, assistant provost, and **Eleanor Siebert**, provost and professor of chemistry, co-authored "Building a Culture of Faculty-Owned Assessment," along with Don Haviland, the Mount's former director of institutional research. The article was published in "College Science Teachers Guide to Assessment" by the National Science Teachers Association Press in 2008.

## MSMC Awarded Grant to Boost Hispanic Success in Math, Science Degrees

Mount St. Mary's College has been awarded a \$2.5 million federal grant to help more Hispanic and low-income students finish four-year degrees in math and science. The grant is one of approximately 100 to be awarded nationwide by the U.S. Department of Education over the next two years to colleges and universities where at least 25 percent of students are Hispanic.

The funds will be used for laptops and software enabling students to examine a virtual dissection — an upgrade that supports active, hands-on learning. Further, MSMC is creating a Success Center for students. The center will provide tutoring during the regular academic year, as well as summer academies. The grant will also develop a First-Year Experience model for math and science students and train professors to better engage Hispanic students and track their persistence toward degree completion.

## from the faculty

**MD Haque**, adjunct professor in the Master of Science in Nursing program, presented "The Role of Vision Communication for Effecting Organizational Change" at the International Academy of Business and Economics annual conference in Las Vegas in October.

**Michael Heim**, lecturer in the Master of Arts in Humanities program, presented "Shifting Focus: From Books to Laptops to Face-to-Face Discussion" at the Brussels iClass 2008 Symposium in May.

**Jaye Houston**, adjunct professor in the Weekend College, was awarded a fellowship to attend the January 2009 Jack and Anita Hess Seminar for Faculty at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The subject was "The Holocaust and Other Genocides: Historical Contexts, Legal Issues, and Ethical Dilemmas."

**Millie Kidd**, professor of English and director of the Master of Arts in Humanities program, presented her paper, "E.E. Cummings and the Underclasses," at the American Literature Association Conference in San Francisco in May.

## Carnegie Recognizes Mount for Distinguished Service



Senior Angela Larios (center) mentors two students at St. Monica Catholic High School in Santa Monica.

Mount St. Mary's College has been recognized by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for its distinguished record of service to greater Los Angeles.

The Mount was one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities selected for the foundation's 2008 Community Engagement Classification in December.

The Mount was designated exceptional in "Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships." This category includes outstanding work by the College in the classroom to engage students in projects that enhance the community, as well as programs outside the classroom that place Mount students in mentoring and other service roles in the community.

"We are extremely pleased that Mount St. Mary's College has received this distinction," said Mount President Jacqueline Powers Doud. "The Mount infuses community engagement into all it does, from classroom instruction to volunteer projects in schools and organizations throughout Los Angeles."

Colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community

engagement were invited to apply for the classification, previously developed and offered in 2006 as part of an extensive restructuring of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. "We hope that by acknowledging the commitment and accomplishment of these engaged institutions, the foundation will encourage other colleges and universities to move in this direction. Doing so brings benefits to the community and to the institution," said Carnegie President Anthony S. Bryk.

Students serve the community through various activities and partnerships. Some of these include mentoring and tutoring K-12 students, taking service-learning courses, and hosting fundraisers for local charities. The College's Student Ambassador program also provides college preparatory support and mentorship to more than 7,000 at-risk youth in greater Los Angeles annually. In addition, The Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College presents approximately 100 free concerts and teacher training workshops in Los Angeles area schools each year.

## Remembering Trustee Bill Elliott

The Mount community is saddened by the death of Bill Elliott, distinguished trustee and longtime friend of the College. Elliott passed away on Oct. 24, 2008. He was the longest-serving current member of the board, having been a Mount trustee for more than three decades.

"Bill was deeply committed to the mission of Mount St. Mary's College and was a champion of giving first-generation students the opportunity to participate in higher education," said President Jacqueline Powers Doud.

During his tenure, Elliott chaired two presidential search committees. He most recently served on the board's audit and student life committees.

"Bill was a loyal supporter of the College and dedicated to ensuring that Mount students receive a quality education," said Sister Jill Napier, CSJ, '71, fellow Mount trustee.



## MSMC Joins LA Opera's 'Ring' Festival

In 2010, Mount St. Mary's College will join the LA Opera to stage a citywide cultural festival centered on the presentation of composer Richard Wagner's four-opera cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. The

epic, drawn from Norse mythology, concerns a magic ring that gives its bearer the power to rule the world.

As part of its participation in the April – June 2010 festival, the Mount will host two seminars. A two-day seminar will be based on the College's graduate-level humanities course, "Two Rings: Lord of the Rings and Ring of the Nibelung — the Films, the Books, and the Music." The seminar, taught by lecturer Michael Heim, explores the mythic "Ring," with a focus on the two series by Wagner and J.R.R. Tolkien as masterworks that synthesize all the arts. The event will be held on the Doheny Campus in The



Rose Hills Auditorium.

The Mount will also present "Architectural Imagination in LA." This two-day seminar is an on-site study of three treasures of Los Angeles architecture, including the Getty Center by

Richard Meier, the Schindler Kings Road House by Rudolf Schindler, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall by Frank O. Gehry. Building tours are preceded by lectures highlighting the Wagnerian connections: classic Valhalla on the hill over Brentwood; the Romanticism of Schindler's patio-beach, close-to-nature style; and the Brothers Grimm fantasy of post-modern Disney Hall. Classes will begin on the Chalon Campus in West Los Angeles.

LA Opera will announce a complete list of festival events in January 2010. For more information, visit [www.laoperaring.com](http://www.laoperaring.com).

## from the faculty

**Rebecca Otten**, associate professor of nursing, presented an award-winning paper, "Role Transition to Nurse Educator Role Using the Roy Adaptation Model Framework," at the 2008 Roy Adaptation Association Conference.

**John Popovich**, instructor of physical therapy, received a 2008 American Physical Therapy PODS II Scholarship. The scholarship awards \$15,000 to each recipient to promote doctoral training for physical therapists.

**Wanda Teays**, chair of the philosophy department, recently published two articles: "Extinguishing Desire: Not Such a Simple Plan After All" in "Morality and Justice. Reading Boylan's A Just Society," and "Torture and Public Health" in "International Public Health Policy and Ethics." The fourth edition of her textbook, "Second Thoughts: Critical Thinking for a Diverse Society," will be published in winter 2009. She is currently working with John-Stewart Gordon, from Ruhr University in Germany, and Alison Renteln, from USC, on a new anthology, "Bioethics and Culture."

## in brief

### Lecture Builds Business Sense

Former LA Mayor Richard Riordan spoke to students in November as part of The Vantage Point, a speaker series sponsored by the business administration department. Riordan shared the four qualities of a good leader he learned from his experience as mayor: "courage, giving, empowering others, and relentless pursuit of goals." The series is designed to help students prepare for issues they will face in today's business world.

### Physical Therapy Docs Graduate



This past October, 25 students received their doctor of physical therapy degree from the Mount. Pictured above are (left to right) Jackie Lizarraga, Prathima Reddy, Danielle Dorio, and Carole Kishi. The College developed the doctoral program in 2001. Currently, there are 89 students in the program.

### Cardinal Presides at Mass

Cardinal Roger Mahony presided at the Mass of the Holy Spirit in September. Both campuses joined together for the Mass, which was held in Mary Chapel on the Chalon Campus. More than 350 attended, including students, faculty, staff, regents, and trustees.



### MSMC Stages Mock VP, Presidential Debates

Hundreds of students filled The Rose Hills Auditorium on the Doheny Campus in October to hear a mock debate between Gov. Sarah Palin, the Republican vice presidential nominee, and Sen. Joe Biden, the Democratic vice presidential nominee. Sophomore Jane Kutepova played the role of Palin (right), and Biden was portrayed by senior Jane Soto (left). A mock presidential debate also took place at the Chalon Campus.

### College Hosts Women Filmmakers During Screenings

This past fall, the Mount's Film and Social Justice program hosted two screenings that showcased women filmmakers.



The first was "The Brothers Warner," written, directed, and produced by Cass Warner Sperling. The second was "Trouble the Water," shown in association with Women in Film, co-directed by Tia Lessin and Carl Deal. After the screenings, aspiring Mount filmmakers mingled with the directors who answered questions about their work.



### Trick-or-Treaters Invade Campus

As part of an 18-year tradition to provide a safe alternative for trick-or-treaters, Mount St. Mary's College opened the Doheny Campus to the community on Oct. 31 for its annual Halloween Haunted Campus. More than 5,000 residents from surrounding neighborhoods attended. MSMC gave away several thousand pounds of candy donated by faculty, staff, students, regents, and trustees as well as community members.

### Homecoming 2008 Draws Crowd

More than 200 alums and guests returned to Chalon this past October to celebrate Homecoming 2008. The event featured afternoon workshops on learning and memory, belly dancing, personal finance, and the presidential election season. Mass was celebrated in Mary Chapel, followed by a reunion reception in the Circle. The day culminated with the Gala Homecoming Dinner and announcement of the 2008 Outstanding Alums. Find out who won on Page 24.

### Students Explore Southern Africa



Following a spring 2008 course on the politics of Southern Africa, 19 students and alums boarded a plane with Lia Roberts, assistant professor of political science, to get firsthand experience. During the three-week excursion in June, students met with members of parliament, CEOs of worldwide relief agencies, and volunteers running orphanages in South Africa. Then, they lived with families on farmland in rural Namibia, learning to guide donkey carts, prepare drinking water, and repair mud huts. Pictured above are Debbie Liza de Segun '08 (left), senior Carla Bustos (center), and senior Rachel Gutierrez (right).



### Microbiology Student Honored

MSMC senior biology major April Wayman (left) took Best Poster Presentation honors for her microbiology research at a November conference. She received the award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. The title of her poster was "Genetic Characterization of the Role of Vitamin K Epoxide Reductase in Mycobacterial Disulfide Bond Formation." It was based on summer research she did at Harvard Medical School.

### Scholarship Recipient Says Thanks

Sanam Yaghtin, a junior biology major, represented Mount St. Mary's College at the 56th Annual Outstanding American Dinner, sponsored by the Los Angeles Philanthropic Foundation. The October dinner honored Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton (left) for his work in public safety. Yaghtin (right) gave a speech expressing her thanks for the scholarship she received from the foundation in spring 2008.



### LA Conservancy Teams With MSMC

As a new service in 2009, the LA Conservancy is partnering with local nonprofit organizations, including Mount St. Mary's College, to provide residents and visitors with tour information for historic architecture and sites spanning the Los Angeles region. To see the list of tours, go to [www.laconservancy.org](http://www.laconservancy.org) and click on Walking Tours, then Tour Partners.

## MSMC, Homeboy Bakery Partner



The Mount teamed up with Homeboy Industries in November to begin purchasing fresh-baked breads and muffins from Homeboy Bakery, a business venture from the gang-intervention program begun by Father Gregory Boyle, a community activist and Jesuit priest. "We're excited about this partnership," said Jotanna Proesholdt, general manager for Bon Appétit, the Mount's catering service. "Bon Appétit is all about buying from local sources, and you can't get any more local than right down the street from the Doheny Campus."

## Therapy Students Help in Mexico

In September, doctor of physical therapy students traveled from Los Angeles to a children's hospital in Mexico to gain hands-on pediatric experience and lend assistance to the facility's staff. This was one of several trips throughout the year to Hospital Infantil de las Californias in Tijuana, Mexico. "Some students want to see what pediatric service is like," said Alan Lee, assistant professor of physical therapy, who started the trips in 2007. "Others want to see what physical therapy is like in a foreign country."

## Music Rings Out in LA Schools

Each year, The Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College presents approximately 100 free concerts

and teacher training workshops in Los Angeles area schools. Both local performers and main-stage artists from the society's Chamber Music in Historic Sites concert series participate. The program gives thousands of inner-city students the opportunity to hear — in many cases for the first time — a live music performance.

## MBA Execs In Residence Welcomed

In fall 2008, the Mount debuted an Executives in Residence component to its Master of Business Administration program. The executives enriched the MBA curriculum, bringing business know-how from a variety of industries to the College to present case studies, participate in panel discussions on controversial topics, and give guest lectures. The MBA program began in summer 2008 in a weekend format with a cross-disciplinary curriculum and a study-abroad requirement.



## Students Attend Moot Court

The Mount energized its pre-law minor in December by sending three students to compete in the national American Collegiate Moot Court Tournament. Sophomore political science major Jane Kutepova won a Best Oral Advocate Award.

## FUN FACTS



## A Week in the Life of Mount St. Mary's College

The campuses of Mount St. Mary's College were bustling during the fall 2008 semester. Here was an average week of activities:

9

spiritual life gatherings

13

acres of lawn mowed

651

beds slept in

2,353

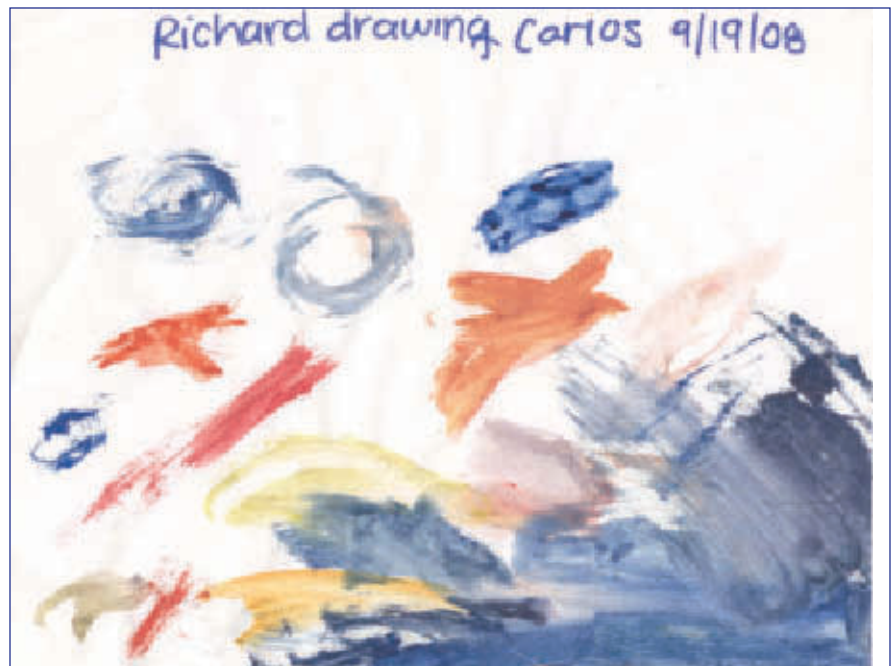
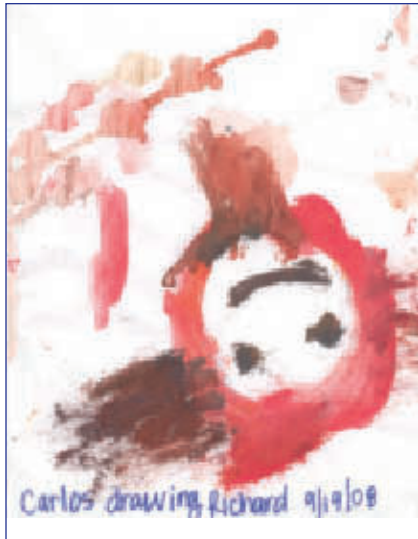
students educated

13,326

meals enjoyed

## Correction

In our Summer/Fall 2008 issue, we inadvertently left off the name of a new member of the Regents Council. Paula Meichtry also became a regent in 2008.



These fine paintings are by 4-year-old artists from the Mount's Child Development Center.

The children were placed in pairs and asked to draw their partner. Each work of art represents a child seen through another's eyes.

The Child Development Center, located on the Doheny Campus, offers a full-day child care program for children ages 18 months to 4 years. Currently, 54 Mount students participate in the operation of the center. They serve as student assistants; student interns, majoring in child development or child psychology; and student teachers, working on their early childhood education credentials. ♣

# FINDING THEIR TRUE CALL

BY JOANNA BANKS



Photo: Carlos Puma

**INTELLECT AND PASSION  
COME TOGETHER FOR  
CAREER CHANGERS IN THE  
MOUNT'S ACCELERATED  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
NURSING PROGRAM.**

STACY GRUENLOH '07  
former Radio City Rockette

ING



VARTAN M. MATEVOSSIAN '08  
former U.S. Postal Service electronics technician



**S**tacy Gruenloh '07 spent most of her 20s executing eye-high kicks and precision choreography with the world-famous Radio City Rockettes. At 30, she started craving a new direction in life and decided it was time to pursue her developing passion in women's health. She put away her dancing shoes, moved to California, and eventually enrolled in the Mount's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The fast and demanding one-year program, which offers the nursing degree to students already holding a bachelor's degree in another field, draws dozens of career changers to the Mount each year. Now 36 and a floor nurse in UCLA Medical Center's labor and delivery unit, Gruenloh says nursing drives her in the same ways competitive dancing did: Both require fierce concentration and extreme dedication.

"I found that doing a jump split wasn't as interesting as it was before," Gruenloh says. "I needed something that allowed me to give to the people around me. I knew there was a critical nursing shortage, and I liked working with people, so entering the accelerated nursing program seemed like a perfect fit."

Gruenloh's path to nursing parallels that of hundreds of other Mount accelerated nursing graduates who have excelled in the program since it began in 1995 among the first of its kind in the nation.

## Fast Track to New Careers

Mary Sloper '62, director of the accelerated nursing program, oversaw its beginnings. She says the fast-track option made sense from the start. Before the accelerated program began, the traditional nursing program was welcoming dozens of applicants who already had bachelor's degrees in other disciplines. Sloper says it seemed inefficient to require those applicants to spend an extra three years working toward a bachelor's in nursing, especially in a field with chronic staffing shortages. "The accelerated program was a way to educate more people in a more

appropriate way," she says.

What the Mount adopted early on has become a popular offering at colleges and universities across the United States. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the number of accelerated BSN programs nationwide has climbed from 31 in 1990 to 205 in 2007, with dozens more reported in the planning phase.

Like Gruenloh, who holds a bachelor's degree in dance from a midwestern college, many Mount accelerated nursing graduates earned bachelor's degrees in their early 20s and entered the workforce. They have written plays, repaired federal computer systems, and designed landmark buildings. Their credentials come from institutions coast to coast, including New York University, UC Berkeley, and Yale.

"The accelerated students are older and more highly motivated," Sloper says. "They are all willing to make the tradeoff to quit work for a year so they can be done faster. Most of these people said, 'I thought about nursing when I was younger, and now I realize that I don't like the business I'm in.' That comes with life experience and maturity."

## Courageous Persistence

Vartan M. Matevossian '08 knows all about sacrifice and persistence. The recent accelerated nursing graduate left a steady, 15-year job as an electronics technician for the U.S. Postal Service to pursue his interest in nursing. With a wife and two young children, the 42-year-old did not take his commitment to stop work and attend school for a year lightly. He completed his first bachelor's degree 16 years ago in computer science at California State University, Northridge.

"There is way more responsibility as a nurse than I ever had as a postal technician," says Matevossian, who was honored at his graduation with the Sister Callista Roy Award for superior academic achievement and commitment to caring for the whole person. His wife is also a nurse and encouraged him to enter the field, he says.

Graduates of the accelerated program post an exceptional pass rate on the nursing licensure exam known as NCLEX-RN — superior to the pass rate of students in the traditional nursing program.

“This is definitely a more intimate job. It’s not just about showing up and fixing some equipment. Mistakes as a nurse are costly,” says Matevossian, who works in the orthopedic surgical care unit of Kaiser Permanente San Diego Medical Center. “You can’t say, ‘Well, I just blew this part, so I’ll just start over with a new part.’”

He praises the Mount for delivering a well-rounded education, including a holistic Catholic-based philosophy that distinguishes it from other nursing schools. The College teaches the Roy Adaptation Model, developed by Sister Callista Roy ’63. The model focuses on understanding patients as total beings, recognizing and respecting their values as well as cultural complexities.

“The Mount gave me a solid core of values that emphasized being ethical, doing what you’re supposed to do, and being your patient’s advocate,” Matevossian says. “The instructors believed those values, and they taught them from their hearts.”

## Ready to Learn

Rosanne Curtis ’79, dean of the Mount’s nursing department, notes that the older students in the accelerated program are especially prepared to deal with the demands of the nursing profession. “They have some life experiences under their belt,” she says. “They know how to deal with bureaucracy. That is critically important because of the diversity of patients they encounter as a nurse.”

The students also come to the Mount with a proven record of hard work. The program requires a minimum 3.0 grade point average from another undergraduate program, but many applicants hold GPAs well above this requirement, Curtis says.

“These students have been through four-plus years of college, so they know what the rigors of studying are and how to succeed,” Curtis says. They continue to be successful once they leave the Mount. Graduates of the

accelerated program post an exceptional pass rate on the nursing licensure exam known as NCLEX-RN — superior to the pass rate of students in the traditional nursing program. In May 2008, all 62 of the College’s accelerated students passed the exam to become nurses.

Further, employability for accelerated nursing graduates is seldom in question. Students regularly sign contracts with large hospitals offering student loan repayment in exchange for a guarantee of two or more years of work at a particular health-care facility.

## Finding Her Heart

Current student Susana Villar ’09 knows she will be a nurse for the rest of her life. For her, nursing is like finally coming home.

Villar, a 33-year-old with a degree in English literature from UC Berkeley, spent nine years working as a writer’s assistant and script coordinator in the entertainment industry. Before she was 30, she sold a script for an episode in the sixth season of the hit television series “The King of Queens.” She purchased a home in the suburbs of Los Angeles, a home she is now renting to help pay her way through the accelerated nursing program.

“I realized I am willing to make a financial sacrifice to make a difference in people’s lives,” says Villar, a Los Angeles native whose father started in a pre-med program only to drop out and build a career as a first assistant director on numerous television series. “I always read anatomy books when I was younger, but I was always stronger in the humanities than in science.”

While her television career soared, Villar says she gained confidence to pursue her true passion for nursing and helping others. She plans to work in pediatric intensive care or in an emergency room. “Being at the Mount feels good,” she says. “It feels like I am finally in the right place. As a nurse, I know I can make my own mark on the world.” ♣





# The *Higher* Li

*By Aaron Smith*



**At Mount St. Mary's College, philosophy and religious studies courses are required parts of the liberal arts curriculum. The classes give students the tools to live ethical and moral lives, ultimately helping them fulfill a desire to make a difference.**

A 2007 survey by UCLA's Cooperative Institutional Research Program revealed two seemingly conflicting desires among today's college freshmen: Almost 69 percent of students said that "being able to make more money" was very important, yet two-thirds also cited "helping others in difficulty" as important, the largest number in 20 years.

In the hearts and minds of young adults, seeking financial security and doing good are not mutually exclusive. And at Mount St. Mary's College, the mission to educate the whole person — through an immersion in the liberal arts — has never been more relevant to delivering the experience that will equip students to fulfill both goals.

Courses in philosophy and religious studies are cornerstones of the liberal arts program at the Mount. Students are required to take at least two classes in each area, and a total of five. By studying topics ranging from scripture to ethics, they are introduced to a diverse range of thought leaders, traditions, theories, and principles. More importantly, students are given tools to apply these lessons in their own lives and the world at large.

"Most young adults want role-modeling and leadership that shows them how to live just and equitable — and spiritual — lives," says Sister Darlene Kawulok, CSJ, chair of the religious studies department. "Often people feel that young adults don't have a spiritual dimension, but they do believe in this energy of goodness that propels them out into the world. They struggle, I think, with the values of the world that say you're supposed to get a job and make money. That's a factor, of course, but we also give them the skills to talk about what is going to truly fulfill them as human beings and help them reach their potential in the image of God."

## Tools and Experiences

Critical thinking and reasoning are essential teaching methods for the religious studies and philosophy departments. These skills are developed inside and outside the classroom, by applying them to the controversies and crises of the day — from physician-assisted suicide to war-torn Darfur.

"At the Mount, we don't want to deal in abstractions, so we draw from actual cases, in the news or movies, where we can go into the particulars and then apply different ethical theories to understand what choice ought to be made," says Wanda Teays, chair of the philosophy department. "We encourage people not just to have an opinion, but to be able to root it within the body of ethical theories, so they can see how their own thoughts compare and contrast. ... A student could [have an opinion] that I think is admirable, but if she can't demonstrate her reasoning — the evidence and assumptions — it doesn't

## “Our students have a deep sense of justice and want to go into work ... where others are going to directly benefit.”

Wanda Teays, chair of the philosophy department

matter. The last thing we want is for our students to become clones of any of us or to follow some leader in any sort of unthinking way.”

Laurie Wright-Garry, assistant professor of religious studies, says she always attempts to illuminate all sides of an issue. On final exams, students must demonstrate an understanding of each side as well as the Catholic perspective *and* their own. “It’s from Vatican Council II — the idea of consciousness raising and forming a conscience,” she says.

Paul Green often starts his moral values course with a “Dear Abby” letter about a person facing a difficult decision with no clearly right or wrong choice.

For instance, a sister makes a promise to her brother on his deathbed that she will tell their parents he was gay, but she also feels it will hurt them. Green, associate professor of philosophy, asks the class to consider similar dilemmas that they or their families have faced.

At the end of the course, Green asks the students to talk again about how they might answer the question differently. “I had one student say, ‘Tell us what the right answer is.’ I said, ‘I’m not going to give you the answer.’ And she said, ‘I knew you were going to say that. That’s what all my teachers say.’ And that’s what we should say because we won’t be around to make any other decisions for them.”

## To Respect, Serve, and Reflect

The Division of Student Affairs at Mount St. Mary College affirms and assists the Mount’s mission to “educate the whole person” in three essential ways.

- The Student Conduct Policy provides guidelines for living ethically and respecting others within the campus community.
- The Office of Community Engagement facilitates a variety of opportunities to serve the surrounding community.
- Campus Ministry creates environments for students to reflect on their learning, service, and behavior as they develop their spiritual side.

The Student Conduct Policy is a set of principles and standards that outline expectations for each member of the community. When a student violates a policy, conduct officers, chosen by faculty and students, hold a review with the student to determine the facts and an appropriate resolution.

“We do this from a developmental perspective and not a punitive one, hoping that the outcome will be educational and that they’ll understand the implications of their behavior, not only on themselves, but on the community,” says Mari Wadsworth, associate vice president for Student Affairs. “It is an opportunity for education outside the classroom. We want to help them make better choices and see alternatives.”

In addition to respecting the College community,

students can engage meaningfully with the surrounding communities as student ambassadors for high schools, tutors, interns, and volunteers for numerous causes, according to Bernadette Robert, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and Community Engagement.

“When students are provided with opportunities to apply the theories learned in the classroom to the practical experiences of the individuals they are serving, it becomes a win-win for everyone,” Robert says. “As service-learning students, they discover their own gifts and talents, better appreciate their Mount experience, and are able to truly embrace how extremely important their roles as citizen leaders will be.”

That understanding is encouraged and nurtured by Campus Ministry, which holds weekly prayer groups to bring students together to read scripture passages and talk about how the passages connect to their lives. This spring, Campus Ministry organized reflection groups, led by students, so people doing community engagement work could share their experiences, according to Gail Gresser, director of Campus Ministry.

“So much is happening in these students’ lives, and they often lack a chance to reflect on it,” Gresser says. “Having informal conversations gives people an opportunity to articulate what’s going on within them and how they’re touched by the experience of serving others. They are giving and receiving a great deal.”



Students are encouraged to study scripture, Christian tradition, and world religions in the same manner they would study English or math, Kawulok says. “We don’t want to create a cookie-cutter mentality. We want them to grapple with their own experience and get in touch with folks who have written on these experiences.”

To help students gain experiential knowledge, Green includes a service-learning component in some classes. As part of the curriculum, students perform volunteer work, such as feeding the homeless or tutoring children, and keep a journal that reflects upon the values carried out in their service. “These grand moral theories are only valuable if they have some connection with human experience,” he says.

## A Spirit to Serve

The future ambitions of Mount students are as diverse as their personal stories, but if a common theme can be found, according to faculty, it is the desire to somehow make a difference.

“Our students have a deep sense of justice and want to go into work — nursing, teaching, social work, biology, law — where others are going to directly benefit,” Teays says.

Regardless of students’ career choices, the overarching mission of the Mount is that ethics and moral values will play a leading role.

“Are you going to be an ethical nurse and ethical teacher?” asks Kawulok. “If you own a business, how do you treat your employees and the people who buy your products? Where do you get your products? When they graduate, they can apply those theories, values,

## Recommended Reading

To explore ethics and moral values from a variety of perspectives, religious studies and philosophy professors suggest these books:

Wanda Teays: “The Dark Side” by Jane Mayer

Darlene Kawulok: “Martyr of the Amazon: The Life of Sister Dorothy Stang” by Roseanne Murphy and “Catholic Social Teaching and Movements” by Marvin L. Krier Mich

Laurie Wright-Garry: “Doing Christian Ethics From the Margins” by Miguel A. De la Torre

Paul Green: “Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics” by Simon Blackburn

and virtues to their situations, make more ethical decisions, and lead more moral lives.”

The Mount’s living heritage is seen in the presence and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, who are indispensable in nurturing a commitment to service. “They are powerful role models. They show the young people what it means to help others and to live a life of integrity,” Teays says. “We’ve got it in the blood here. It’s not just images on the wall. It’s palpable, and I see it every day — that inner strength and courage of character that is not solely developed in the classroom. It can be encouraged in the classroom, but it’s developed by how you live and work with others.”

The influence of the sisters is as important to faculty as students. “Their spirit infuses the campus,” Green says. “At a gathering the other night, I took a poll to see how many faculty do community service in their personal life, and everyone did.”

With each graduating class of students that moves on, the spirit of service travels with them. “They want to go out and help people and change the world,” Wright-Garry says. “Whatever they choose to do, they’re going to make a difference. It makes me hopeful. I think we’re going to be in good hands.” ♣

## Mount Fund Supports The President's Greatest Needs

By making an annual gift to the Mount Fund, donors help the president of Mount St. Mary's College meet the institution's greatest unanticipated or unmet needs each year. Current priorities include providing tuition assistance, enhancing faculty development, and pioneering new programs.

The College maintains a balanced budget while continuing to offer more than \$12 million in financial aid each year. It anticipates increasing financial aid packages significantly in the coming year as students and their families face difficult economic times. Gifts to the Mount Fund are more important than ever because they provide the president with the resources needed to meet these shifting priorities. This keeps the Mount competitive and enables it to continue serving students in need.

Mount St. Mary's College is grateful for the dedicated alums and friends who support its mission by making annual contributions to the Mount Fund. For more information, contact Sherry Wickware, director of annual giving, at 213.477.2537 or go to [www.msmcalums.la.edu/mountfund](http://www.msmcalums.la.edu/mountfund).

## Mount Honors Carrie Estelle Doheny, Launches Mansion Restoration Effort

The Mount celebrated the legacy of philanthropist Carrie Estelle Doheny and the 110-year-old Doheny Mansion, one of Los Angeles' premier cultural monuments, at an October tea. The event brought together more than 100 supporters seeking to preserve the historic residence.

"We are launching a fundraising effort to support the renovations needed to preserve this historic landmark and honor Mrs. Doheny's tradition of giving back to Los Angeles," said Paul Craft '03, vice president of institutional advancement.



LA Archdiocese Archivist Monsignor Francis Weber (left) presents Mount President Jacqueline Powers Doud (right) with Carrie Estelle Doheny's honorary degree for display at the Doheny Mansion. The document had been entrusted to the diocese since Doheny's death.

Mansion restoration efforts will first secure the exterior of the building to stop water incursion. This includes stabilizing the roof and windows, sealing the foundation, reinforcing the Pompeian Room's Tiffany stained-glass dome, and replastering the exterior walls. The College has established the Friends of the Doheny Mansion to raise funds for improvements.

Mrs. Doheny, a well-known philanthropist and devoted supporter of the Roman Catholic Church,

bequeathed her Chester Place estate upon her death in 1958 to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for educational purposes. Mount St. Mary's College submitted a proposal to the archdiocese to use the property to create a college campus located in the heart of the city and was chosen over two other institutions to develop the historic campus.

The Mount began an associate of arts degree program on the Doheny Campus in 1962. Today, the campus also includes seven graduate degree programs, an education credentialing program, and the Weekend College for working professionals.

"The Doheny Mansion plays an integral part in the College's educational mission," said President Jacqueline Powers Doud. "Our students experience beauty through visits to the mansion. The College invites students into the mansion to celebrate special events that mark significant occasions in their academic lives."

The College's relationship with Mrs. Doheny began much earlier than the establishment of the Chester Place campus. In 1931, the Mount bestowed upon her one of its first honorary degrees, a doctor of laws for achievements in advancing the interests of Catholic education and charities. Upon her death, Mrs. Doheny's degree and personal papers became the property of the Archdiocese of Los

Angeles. The archdiocese archivist presented the honorary degree to College officials during the October event for display in the mansion.

MaryAnn Bonino '61, curator of the Doheny Mansion and professor emerita of Mount St. Mary's College, spoke at the event about research she did for her new book, "The Doheny Mansion: A Biography of a Home." Bonino discussed Edward Doheny's role as a founder of America's petroleum age and Mrs. Doheny's commitment to philanthropy and maintaining the mansion. Bonino is also a musicologist and founding artistic director emerita of The Da Camera Society, which produces the Chamber Music in Historic Sites concert series each year. The book is available for purchase at [www.dacamera.org](http://www.dacamera.org). All proceeds will be directed to the conservation of the Doheny Mansion.

## MSMC Seeks Scholarship Funds for Adult Students



Weekend College alums and professors gathered at the Weekend College Alumni Network's Harvest Potluck this past fall.

**A** Mount priority for 2009 is raising scholarship funds designated for adult students in the Weekend College program. Higher-education access and affordability are core missions of Mount St. Mary's College, and in these challenging economic times, the need for financial aid has never been greater.

The Weekend College Alumni Network board is working with the Mount's institutional advancement staff on a number of activities, including hosting a fundraiser this spring to establish an emergency fund for Weekend College students. In the coming year, the College will continue to raise discretionary funds for Weekend College Dean Merrill Rodin to allocate for student scholarships and program development.

Additionally, the Mount is seeking individual, corporate, and foundation support to establish an endowed scholarship for adult learners. Presently, three Weekend College scholarships are funded annually by alums, which have helped several students meet their financial obligations.

Alumni interested in contributing to existing Weekend College scholarships or establishing new funds are encouraged to contact Paul Craft '03, vice president of institutional advancement, at 213.477.2766 or [pcraft@msmc.la.edu](mailto:pcraft@msmc.la.edu).

## College Awarded New Grants

**M**ount St. Mary's College has been awarded grants to support the Ken Skinner Parking Pavilion and nursing students.

The Bill Hannon Foundation, which fully funded the new Hannon Hall on the Doheny Campus, and the Ahmanson Foundation, which helped to fund Ahmanson Weingart Hall at Doheny, both awarded Mount St. Mary's grants toward the remaining balance on the Ken Skinner Parking Pavilion.

Nursing student scholarships got a boost from two foundations. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded the Mount funds toward scholarships for students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, while the Marshall and Margherite McComb Foundation provided resources for traditional undergraduate student scholarships. In addition, three hospitals renewed their forgivable student loans for both the accelerated and traditional nursing programs: Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente of Southern California.

# alum community

## welcome

When you graduated from the Mount, you were welcomed into our Alumnae Association. Membership in the association has many benefits, including several free services. Did you know that you can audit one course a semester for personal enrichment? Get career planning advice from the Career Center? Tour Tuscany with our new travel program? Visit the campus libraries and work out in the fitness centers? Best of all, you have access to the online alum community through the Mount AlumLine at [www.msmcalums.la.edu](http://www.msmcalums.la.edu). And because you are a Mount graduate, your children are entitled to a \$1,000 grant, renewable every year, when they enroll at the Mount. For more information or to take advantage of these benefits, call Alumnae Relations at 213.477.2767.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
**Homecoming with reunion**  
**celebrations is Saturday,**  
**Oct. 10, 2009!**

## class notes

### '43

**Mary (Sibilio) Frary** became a great-grandmother in 2006.

**Mary (Pansini) La Haye** published a new children's book, "The Wizard Sleeping on a Watermelon."

### '56

**Margaret (Munnemann) Cohen** spearheaded a mini-reunion for alums from her class and the class of 1955, at the El Capitan Campground near Santa Barbara, Calif. Those in attendance from the class of 1956 were **Regina (Mason) Fitzgerald**, **Gretchen (Von der Ahe) Krylow**, **Barbara (Vacarro) Miller**, and **Maureen (McKernan) Romaine**. The class of 1955 was represented by **Rosemary (Flanagan) Gray**, **Virginia (Fields) Madden**, **Kathleen**



Christine Lilly-Hicks '72 (left) and Barbara (Dummel) Brunner '63 (right) reminisce over yearbook photos at Homecoming 2008.

**(McGlinchy) Rezzonico**, and **Carol (Atchison) Steffes**.

### '57

**Harriet (Hillebrand) Burns** and **Norma (Hopkins) Wallace** enjoyed a vacation together on the New Jersey shore.

**Alice (Osti) Carriere** and her husband recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with more than 200 friends and family members.

### '59

**Patricia (Mears) Fine** welcomed a new great-grandson, Logan Schmidt.

### '60

**Rita (Simeon) Boags** published a new book, "Mentorship: A Pathway to Career Success," and donated a copy to the Alumnae Authors Collection in the Coe Library on the Chalon Campus.

### '61

**MaryAnn Bonino**, curator of the Doheny Mansion at Mount St. Mary's College, published a new book, "The Doheny Mansion: A Biography of a Home," and designated that all of the proceeds go to the Mount. In addition, she has resumed hosting "Sunday Music" on KUSC from 7 a.m.–9 a.m., featuring mostly sacred music.

**Linda (Cox) Stellern** and

her husband took a three-week trip to Europe, spending time in Ludwigshafen, Germany, the sister city to Pasadena, Calif. They have hosted German exchange students for the past 12 years. While in Europe, they also traveled to London, Paris, Munich, Prague, Vienna, and Salzburg. Linda plays bridge once a week and is active in the Shakespeare League of Pasadena, working on the drama committee this year.

### '62

**Liz (McCready) Stark** is enjoying retirement and traveled to Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. Prior to her trip, Liz studied Spanish for two years so she could be more effective as an ESL teacher for her local reading program. Her studies also prompted her to visit those Spanish-speaking countries.

### '63

**Bernice (Fijak) Lynch-Bajada** visited all of the capitals in Eastern Canada by bus and then boarded a ship in Nova Scotia with port calls along the Eastern Seaboard. She especially enjoyed touring Boston and the mansions in Newport, R.I.

'64

**Miriam Berks-Roberts** enjoys writing poetry and has had several poems win awards in the Solano County Fair Fine Arts Division. One poem won Best of Show, her third such honor since the contest started in 1990. She also attended the California Federation of Chaparral Poets Convention in April.

**Danette (Hoffman) Magilligan** was named a Dame of Malta and became a new member of the College's Regents Council.

'67

**Ann (Gish) Finnegan** is a retired campus minister and religion teacher and is a member of several charitable boards. She also enjoys traveling across the country to visit her three children and her first grandchild.

'71

**Margaret (Brooks) James** is a fourth grade teacher at Myler Street School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She attends St. John Fisher Parish, is a member of the Torrance YWCA, and is associated with Christian Educators International.

**Loretta (McBride) Musselman** moved to Redding, Calif., in 2007. She is a hospice volunteer as well as a volunteer in a first grade classroom. She enjoys traveling by RV to Oregon.

'72

**Mary Kay Durando** is a member of the Stanford Hospital Emergency Room Callback Team, which was named the 2008 Best Nursing Team by a panel of experts from *Advance for Nurses* magazine.

'73

**Esther (Storie) Ehrlich** is retired and living in San Marcos, Calif., with family. She cherishes her memories of the Mount and the many students she taught.

'76

**Colleen Jernigan** works at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center managing a case-specific outpatient center. She loves living in Houston.

## Venture to Italy With Fellow Alums

The Alumnae Association is launching a travel program beginning this fall. Our inaugural trip will be to Tuscany, Italy, from Oct. 14–22, 2009. The cost is approximately \$3,934 per person, based on double occupancy, including airfare and value-added tax.

From the innovations of the Etruscans to the enlightenment of the Renaissance, Tuscany is a region steeped in history and human achievement. The trip begins in the village of Cortona, with strolls through the surrounding Tuscan hill country. Then, in Siena, visit the city's magnificent Duomo and the Piazza del Campo, one of the loveliest squares in Italy. Next, explore two walled cities in Umbria — medieval Assisi, home to the exquisite Basilica of St. Francis, and Perugia, an ancient Etruscan city-state. Afterward, journey to tiny Montepulciano, set in the heart of Chianti country. Finally, experience the brilliant artistic and architectural heritage of Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. For photos and a day-by-day itinerary, go to the Mount AlumLine at [www.msmcalums.la.edu](http://www.msmcalums.la.edu).

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of alumnae relations, at 213.477.2769 or [jruiz@msmc.la.edu](mailto:jruiz@msmc.la.edu). Reservations are limited and on a first come, first served basis.



A farm house in Tuscany, Italy

'77

**Theresa (Lewis) Del Carlo** works part time in labor and delivery at a local hospital, teaches childbirth classes, and serves as the clinical obstetrics instructor for Sonoma State University's nursing program. She is a Staff Nurse IV — the highest level at her hospital. She has four married children and four grandchildren.

'80

**Catherine (Domingo) Jani** and her family took a cruise to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and she attended a family reunion in Rome, when her uncle became a cardinal. While in Rome, she met the Pope.

**ClareTeen (Knapp) Perron** enjoys living and working as a registered nurse in Boston. She does telephonic cardiovascular assessments for a nurse practitioner specialty program.

'82

**Jennifer (Tellers) Schultz** continues to work as a geriatric nurse practitioner at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Bellflower, Calif. She and her husband are enjoying the second half of life with two sons in college, one at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and the other at a school in Pennsylvania. Their third son is a server at St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower.

'83

**Elizabeth Fassinger** works in outpatient orthopedics and is finishing a doctor of physical therapy degree at Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

**Maria Fernandez** became a certified diabetes educator in May 2008. There are only 15,500 CDEs in the country. She will be working with the medically underserved in

## 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award for Professional Achievement **Sandy Stevenson '56**



**S**andy Stevenson '56 brings the tenacity and passion she gained at the Mount to her career focused on financial integrity in New York City government.

"I was astonished when I found out I would receive this alumna award," says Stevenson, recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award for Professional Achievement. "I said, 'I'm not doing anything here. It's not for me,' but that's the way it turned out."

New York City's taxpayers would probably disagree. Over three decades, Stevenson, now a principal financial analyst for the State Deputy Comptroller's Office for New York City, has applied her mathematical and analytic skills to help generate a series of groundbreaking reports on the root causes of the city's significant financial problems.

Among her greatest accomplishments, Stevenson analyzed the city's real estate tax and found widespread assessment inequities. In addition, her work on pension costs found substantial abuse at one Transit Authority division. Lax management was allowing employees to inflate their overtime earnings and unfairly bolster their pensions.

Stevenson had an unlikely start to her current job. She graduated from the Mount with a degree in chemistry, taught briefly, and landed at the RAND Corp., first in Los Angeles and then in New York. While at RAND, she studied the effects of nuclear weapons. Then, in 1975, she took a job analyzing financial forecasts of the nearly bankrupt New York City government. She has been investigating the city government ever since.

Despite all of Stevenson's good work, she says her college experience gives her the most satisfaction. "I think attending the Mount was the most important thing I did in my life," says the 73-year-old Manhattanite.

Colorado, specifically Spanish-speaking populations and farm workers.

**Sarah (Magana) Zepeda** and her husband celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

### '84

**Diane K. Dameron** is an academic advisor for the Navy College Office and helps active-duty service members complete their degrees. She received her master's degree in counseling psychology from the Mount in 1986 and became a licensed marriage and

family therapist in 1991. She previously worked in San Diego at the Fleet and Family Support Center at Naval Air Station, North Island, counseling active-duty military members and setting up 24-hour family information centers for times of crisis.

### '86

**Kathleen (Bush) Burr, Laura (Cunningham) Granucci, Michelle (Thoemmes) Looper, and Alison Lynch** continue to meet once a year for a "girls' weekend."

### '87

**Claudia Ruiz** was named principal of Fullbright Elementary School in Winnetka, Calif., by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

### '88

**Karen (McKnight) Compton**, principal of A3K Consulting in Glendale, Calif., published a new book, "The Prospector: A Guide to Developing Clients and Winning Work in a Competitive Environment."

**Faith (Yamamoto) Ichida** retired as a school nurse for the Los Angeles Unified School District after 32 years. She has traveled to China, Singapore, Hawaii, and several U.S. cities.

**Caryn (Ruiz) Nadeau** was promoted to vice president for corporate training and development at Union Bank.

### '90

**Racine King** suffers from osteoarthritis, but still volunteers at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee. She was a member of a hospital improvement focus committee.

### '93

**Josie Salazar-Romero** left her position at the charter school Vaughn Learning Center in Pacoima, Calif., after 12 years, to teach students with special needs in first through third grade at Granada Elementary School in Granada Hills, Calif. She and her husband just celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary.

### '94

**Elena Enriquez-Salazar** has been working as a counselor in South Los Angeles since graduating from the Mount. She loves traveling with her husband of 14 years and their three boys.

### '95

**Zulema Garcia** was made a partner at KPMG LLP in Los Angeles.

**Laura Gimenez** is a commercial attaché for the Foreign Service. She and her family have been transferred

from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to Monterrey, Mexico. Her appointment there will last four years.

**'98**

**Giovanna Brasfield** was honored as Female Democrat of the Year at the Los Angeles County Democratic Party's Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year awards dinner this past August.

**'01**

**Maria "Concha" Duenas** works for a state agency as a service coordinator helping children with developmental disabilities.

**'03**

**Jennifer McCreight** has been a social worker for the San Bernardino County Psychiatric Inpatient Unit since April 2006.

**'04**

**Veronica Dale** earned her Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certificate from California State University, Long Beach. She works for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

**'07**

**Maryann Nguyen** has been named by the Archdiocesan Religious Education Congress as the next master of ceremonies at all Congress liturgies when the current master of ceremonies retires in 2011. She has been the assistant master of ceremonies for several years and will be the first woman to hold the head position, which oversees and organizes all activities for the five liturgies held during the Congress.

## two by two

The Alumnae Association extends best wishes to the following alums and their spouses:

'58 Sharon Girard to Federico Sangirardi Quinto, Count of Wardhal

## 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award for Service to the Community Barbara G. Mullen '61



**P**lenty of people know how deserving Barbara G. Mullen '61 is of the 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award for Service to the Community she received.

There are the Watts school children who, thanks to Mullen, had new pencils and paper on their desks. There are the former gang members at Homeboy Industries who received a new wardrobe of dress shirts to wear on job interviews. And there are the homeless families who receive nourishing meals at the soup

kitchen Mullen runs at a local church.

And still it was with surprise and humility that the retired nurse accepted the award in October. "I was totally blown away. I think that most of the women who graduate from the Mount kind of minor in community service," says Mullen, who retired from Daniel Freeman Hospital in 2003.

Even before retirement, Mullen was busy volunteering in her community of Redondo Beach. She started as an assistant in the soup kitchen at the city's St. James Church. Now she runs the program, preparing lunches for dozens of homeless men, women, and children each week. One recent Christmas, Mullen rallied community support to spearhead a party that featured a holiday meal of donated turkeys for 300 needy children and their parents. All of the children also received gifts.

In addition, Mullen has found much satisfaction as a volunteer nurse helping the Rotarians' Smiles of Tecate program, which fixes cleft palates and lips in children before the cases create a social stigma. Every few months, she drives down to Tecate, Mexico, to assist with surgeries.

Volunteering has its own rewards, she says. "We get paid by God."

'72 Deborah Vitale to Richard Higgins

'94 Sivina Gimenez to Monsef Benohaud

'03 Jennifer McCreight to Juan Villalba

'03 Nidia Molina to Mark Pravongviengkhan

'03 Elizabeth Robles to Juan Jimenez

## by-lines

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on the birth of their children:

'94 Olivia Rosa to Diana (Gonzalez) Medina, second child

'95 Jordanna Beverly to Jennifer (McCormick) Bartlett, second child, first daughter

# alum community

- '95 Steven Zachary to Diane (Van Houten) Taylor, second child, second son  
'97 Peyton Robert to Tiffany (Lawrence) O'Leary, second child, first son  
'98 Louis Diego to Lilly Legra-Rodriguez, second child, first son  
'99 Sri Balarama to Varsana (Staszak) Tikovsky, first child

## requiescant

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

- '39 Margaret Illingworth  
'39 La Verne (Carlton) Rollins, grandmother of Nicole (Rollins) Myjak '05  
'42 Lois (Hines) McAuliffe  
'46 husband of Mary (Needels) Block  
'46 Margaret Thalken  
'47 Gladys Trask  
'49 Marguerite (Biggs) Cromie  
'49 Margaret (McLoone) Weeger  
'52 son of Marie (Astier) Devine  
'52 Maureen (Boylan) Scherzberg  
'54 husband of Gloria (Francis) Bowen  
'55 husband of Rosemary (Condon) Gray  
'56 Julia (Peman) Panfili  
'57 husband of Helen (Morearty) Primising  
'57 mother of Myra (Pestana) Silversparre  
'57 daughter of Jacqueline (Bigelow) Stevens  
'59 brother of Sister Barbara Sullivan, CSJ, and Nancy (Sullivan) Taylor '65  
'60 husband of Patricia (Mooney) Crowley  
'60 mother of Barbara (Sadler) Rolfe, grandmother of Dawn Ward '97  
'61 Judy (Kelly) Page  
'63 Regina D'Ambrosio  
'66 Barbara Clayton  
'66 Joanne Drake  
'68 mother of Martha (Maddex) Lewis  
'68 mother of Catherine (Wagner) Pate  
'71 husband of Diane (Reiser) Bridgeman

- '73 father of Mary Lou Huseby, grandfather of Diane Huseby '96 and Jane Huseby '97  
'75 stepfather of Michelle Melanson  
'75 aunt of Michele Rhilinger and Marcia (Rhilinger) Sullivan '80  
'76 Christina (Corella) Cirelle  
'78 mother of Susan (Stark) Meyer  
'89 Sister Genevieve Dunn, SNJM  
'96 son of Neri Recinos  
'98 husband of Margarita Miranda  
They will be remembered in the Masses, prayers, and good works of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Mount community.

## advanced degrees

The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums for their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

- '76 Ann Jernigan, Ph.D. in Nursing Science, Texas Woman's University, May 2008  
'86 Veronica (O'Connell) Dale, Certified Nurse Practitioner, California State University, Long Beach, 2004  
'91 Rosa (Sanchez) White, M.B.A., University of Phoenix, August 2008  
'01 Monica Lang, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, June 2008  
'04 April (Godinez) Garcez, M.A. in Theology, Loyola Marymount University, May 2008  
'05 Ana Fadich, M.P.H., Keck School of Medicine of USC, 2008

NOTE: We are proud of all of our alums and are happy to showcase your academic achievements. Please let us know when you receive an advanced degree and include the date and the name of the institution granting the degree. In order to keep this feature current, please do not go back any further than four years or send information that has already appeared in Class Notes.

### Stay on the Cutting Edge

Log in to Mount AlumLine to:

- find out the latest alum activities
- RSVP to alum events
- update your personal information
- chat online
- make a gift to MSMC

To log in, go to [www.msmcalums.la.edu](http://www.msmcalums.la.edu); you will need your Alum ID#. You can find it directly above your name on the address panel of this magazine.

### Email Update

Make sure we have your current email address, so we can stay in touch.

### Alumnae Legacy Grant

Alum offspring are entitled to a \$1,000 grant, renewable every year upon enrolling at MSMC. It's an alumnae perk. To apply, contact Alumnae Relations.

### Alum Privilege Card

You need this card to use the Mount fitness centers or libraries. Log in to AlumLine (Web address above) and click on Alum Privilege Card on the left navigation bar.

### Enrichment Courses

You are entitled to audit one course a semester for personal enrichment at no charge. No credit will be given. Contact Alumnae Relations to get the audit waiver form.

### Career Planning

Alums can get free career-planning advice by visiting the Career Center during regular hours either as a walk-in client or by appointment with a counselor. To search the center's online job listing, go to [www.mountcareernetwork.com](http://www.mountcareernetwork.com). You will need to complete an initial registration process.

### Questions?

Call Alumnae Relations at 213.477.2767.



## Building Faith, Creating a Future

By Alissa Pineda '09

As I reflect on my time at Mount St. Mary's College, one of the greatest experiences has been my journey in the Catholic faith.

Although I grew up in a Catholic family, my involvement in the church community was limited. Then my older sister attended Mount St. Mary's College, and I watched as her participation in Campus Ministry filled her life with joy. She inspired me. I knew that I, too, wanted to come to the Mount and join in ministry.

Since my freshman year, I have worked with Campus Ministry as a liturgy coordinator for the weekly Masses. I choose students, faculty, and staff to serve as lectors or Eucharistic ministers. An important aspect of the liturgy is creating an atmosphere where everyone on campus feels welcome and eager to participate. I strive to ensure that Mass is a reflective and prayerful experience.

Thanks to the guidance of the Campus Ministry staff, I have learned many valuable skills, including how to be more outgoing about my faith and how to help other people build theirs. I have grown a lot in my three and a half years at the Mount, and I am no longer shy about inviting classmates to attend Sunday Mass. I have even had the opportunity to serve the larger Catholic community as the co-coordinator of liturgies at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress held annually by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

At the Mount, learning does not just happen in the classroom; it also happens every time we go into the community to serve. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet taught me that I can bring positive change to our city, our country, and beyond. As students, we are continuing their tradition of serving our dear neighbors. My

experience has stirred in me a desire to bring about social justice in the world.

Not only have I been blessed to serve people in Los Angeles, but I joined the CSJs in their work for the common good at the national and international level. This past summer, I attended the Convention for the Common Good in Philadelphia. I took an active role and voiced my opinions on how to persuade America's youth to create positive change globally. And in November, I was one of 21 Mount students who traveled with the sisters to Columbus, Ga., to participate in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice. The event calls for an end to the bloodshed that has persisted for decades in parts of Latin America. The focus is on the School of the Americas, a facility located in Georgia that has trained Latin American soldiers to return to their homelands and use violence to protect the interests of the wealthy to the detriment of the poor.

Coordinating liturgies was only the beginning of my faith journey at the Mount. The values I gained resonate deep within me, influencing my career path. I want to apply what I learned and make a difference in the world. Although I am a business major, my experience at the Mount has taught me that my interests in business and social justice are not mutually exclusive. I am currently exploring a master's program at Boston College that combines business administration and pastoral ministry. The lessons from Campus Ministry will stay with me for the rest of my life and guide me in the future. ♣

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*Alissa Pineda will graduate from Mount St. Mary's College in May 2009 with a degree in business administration.*

## JOIN US...

on May 9, for the Class of 1959's Golden Grad Celebration at the Chalon Campus. The day begins with a welcome reception and luncheon, and culminates with participation in Baccalaureate Mass at Mary Chapel. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of alumnae relations, at 213.477.2769 or [jruiz@msmc.la.edu](mailto:jruiz@msmc.la.edu).

on Oct. 10, for Homecoming 2009. Reunions this year will be celebrated by the classes of '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, and '04. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of alumnae relations, at 213.477.2769 or [jruiz@msmc.la.edu](mailto:jruiz@msmc.la.edu).

**The following calendar represents only some of the events at Mount St. Mary's College. For more up-to-date listings, visit [www.msmc.la.edu](http://www.msmc.la.edu) and click on "Calendars." For alumnae events, visit [www.msmcalums.la.edu](http://www.msmcalums.la.edu).**



Photo: Bullett Salvador

Chalon Campus at night

## april

- 10 Summer Semester Application Deadline for Weekend College, 213.477.2866
- 15 Summer Semester Application Deadline for Master's Programs, Graduate Admissions, 213.477.2800
- 18 Shanghai String Quartet, Doheny Mansion, The Da Camera Society, 213.477.2929, [www.dacamera.org](http://www.dacamera.org)
- 25 Senior Art Exhibition Opening, José Drudis-Biada Gallery, Chalon Campus, 310.954.4360

## may

- 1 Spring Choral Concert, Chalon Campus, 310.954.4265
- 2 Docent-Led Tour of the Classical Chinese Garden at The Huntington, Alumnae Relations, 213.477.2767
- 9 Golden Grad Celebration: Class of 1959, Chalon Campus, Alumnae Relations, 213.477.2769
- 11 Commencement 2009, Gibson Amphitheatre, Universal Citywalk
- 16 Colorado String Quartet, Doheny Mansion, The Da Camera Society, 213.477.2929, [www.dacamera.org](http://www.dacamera.org)

## june

- 2 Spain, Morocco, and France Trip, Weekend College, 213.477.2866
- 8 Shangri-La, Hong Kong, and Macao Trip, Weekend College, 213.477.2866



## *1937*

In the late 1930s, Mount students wore uniforms and dressed conservatively, according to a booklet titled "Dress Regulations." A dark-blue wool crepe suit was required in the classroom, with a skirt and sweater or blazer worn the rest of the time. A semiformal gown and white dress rounded out the student wardrobe. Pants were forbidden. The Mount's official dress code grew more relaxed over the years and disappeared in 1972.

—Victoria McCargar, College archivist



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*Architecture of Mount St. Mary's College*